

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 CU-02 SSM-03 OMB-01
TRSE-00 SY-05 /095 W
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R 301245Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4539
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
USINT BAGHDAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL US CAIRO 7337

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG LY
SUBJ: ALLEGED MUTINY AT DERN AND ARREST OF KHARUBI

1. GUMHURIYYA APRIL 30 LEADS WITH SENSTATONAL ACCOUNT OF ALLEGED ARMY MUTINY IN DERN AND ARREST RCC MEMBER KHARUBI.
2. DERN CLASH. " TRAVELLERS ARRIVING IN CAIRO FROM LIBYA" SAY A CLASH BETWEEN ELEMENTS OF LIBYAN ARMED FORCES AND A "CUBAN BRIGADE" AT THE LIBYAN MILITARY BASE IN DERN OCCURRED APRIL 29. LIBYAN BATTALION HAD DECLARED ITSELF IN MUTINY AGAINST QADHAFI REGIME. EXTRAORDINARY SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN IN DERN.
3. KHARUBI. REPORTEDLY, KHARUBI ANNOUNCED HE OBJECTED TO SQUANDERING LIBYAN ARMY MONEY ON TERRORISM ABROAD AND HAD DISCOVERED FINANCIAL PECULATIONS IN LIBYAN MILITARY BUDGET. AS

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RESULT, GUMHURIYYA CLAIMS, HE HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST.

4. BENGHAZI FIGHT. MAJOR UTHMAN AL-WAZRI AND MAJOR ALI AL-AQURI OF LIBYAN GENERAL INTELLIGENCE ALLEGEDLY HEADED GOVERNMENT FORCES' EFFORTS CONTROL BENGHAZI "YOUTH". "TERRIBLE CLASHES" (AHRAM) OCCURRED IN PAST WEEK, ESPECIALLY ON AL-BAZAR AND QASR HAMAD STREETS. AS POPULAR RESENTMENT SPREADS TO "ALL

LIBYAN CITIES" MAJOR MUHAMMAD AL-MAHGUB, CAPTAIN MUHAMMAD ABU ZAYD AND LT. AWAD AL-WUD HAVE BEEN PLACED IN CHARGE OF "TERRORIST UNITS WHICH ATTACH PRIVATE HOUSES AND ARREST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT NIGHT".

5. SOVIET GUIDING HAND. "ARTIFICIAL UPROAR" HAS BEEN STIRRED UP BY QADHAFI AGAINST EGYPT AS RESULT ORDERS RECEIVED FROM SOVIET UNION. "EXTREME TENSION" PREVAILS BETWEEN LIBYAN ARMY TECHNICIANS AND SOVIET EXPERTS WHO "SUPERVISE" THEM.

6. POLITICAL ASYLUM. "A FORMER LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER " (COMMENT: MAGHRABI?) HAS ASKED "A CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRY" FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM.

7. LIBYAN CALL FOR ARAB LEAGUE MEETING. ACCORDING TO CAIRO PRESS, NOT A SINGLE MEMBER STATE HAS AGREED TO CONVENE EMERGENCY MEETING. SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO AL QUOTED AS SAYING SUCH MEETING UNNECESSARY AND THAT QADHAFI REQUEST IS AIMED ONLY AT DIVIDING ARAB RANKS AT TIME WHEN THEY SHOULD BE UNIFIED.

8. LIBYAN "BANKRUPTCY" . PRESS ALSO GIVES CONSIDERABLE PLAY TO ALLEGED ACUTE DEFICIT IN LIBYAN GOVERNMENT BUDGET AS RESULT OF QADHAFI SQUANDERING MONEY ON MERCENARIES AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS CHARGED WITH IGNITING FACTIONAL DISPUTES IN ARAB AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES

QADHAFI UNABLE PAY ARMED FORCES SALARIES LAST NOVEMBER, PRESS CHARGES.

9. COMMENT: CAIRO REPORT OF ARREST OF CYRENICAN LEADER KHARUBI, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHETHER ACCURATE OR FABRICATED, SEEMS INTENDED IMPLY QADHAFI HAS NOW DECIDED STRIP AWAY ALL PRETENSE OF RULING WITH EVEN TACIT SUPPORT OF REGIONAL LEADERS. EGYPTIAN PRESS NOW PORTRAYING HIM AS UNABASHED DICTATOR UNDER THUMB OF MOSCOW.

10. CONTINUING EGYPTIAN PRESS REPORTS OF STREET FIGHTING AND RISING "WAVE OF RESENTMENT" IN LIBYAN ARE NOT SUBSTANTIATED BY MEAGER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US HERE OR BY EMBASSY TRIPOLI'S REPORTING. SINCE EGYPTIAN EXAGGERATIONS AND POSSIBLE FABRICATIONS MAY SOON STRAIN GADHAFI'S CREDIBILITY AT HOME, DECISION TO MAINTAIN SENSATIONAL REVELATIONS IN GUIDED CAIRO PRESS PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO STRONG SADAT/FAHMY REJECTION OF SOVIET DEMARCHE AND MANNER OF ITS PRESENTATION.
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